

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 37 to 43 have been added. No new matter has been added. Please charge any deficiencies or credits for any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1620 for the additional claims.

The newly added claims are for clarification purposes only. A revised oath, declaration and application data sheet have been submitted to correct the deficiencies noted in the Office Action.

Claims 1 to 15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,882,938 ("Vaage").

New claim 37 has been added and includes the following element:

"positioning the at least one satellite energy source in a perpendicular displacement to the direction of the streamer of receivers to provide a plurality of azimuthal coverage, and wherein the at least one satellite energy source is located laterally outboard from the streamer at a distance of at least one-tenth of the length of the streamer"

Vaage does not disclose locating at least one satellite energy source in a perpendicular displacement to the direction of the streamer to provide azimuthal coverage where the satellite energy source is laterally outboard from the streamer at a distance of at least one-tenth of the length of the streamer. Instead, Vaage's second or satellite sources shown in Fig. 1 are located behind the illustrated streamers, and not laterally outboard. Moreover, there is no reference in Vaage of the satellite source locations with respect to the location or distance from the streamers to provide a plurality of azimuthal coverage. Rather Vaage states:

“... where the second seismic energy source (or source array) is towed along (or parallel to) a survey line, such as 5 in Fig. 1, at a selected distance from the first seismic source (or source array).”

Vaage does not teach all of the elements in new claim 37. New claims 38 to 43 are dependent on new claim 37, and for the above-discussed reasons are patentable over Vaage.

In light of the amendments to the claims of the present application, it is respectfully submitted that the additional rejections cited in the Office Actions are moot.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Preliminary Amendment, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the applicants' attorney, Maurice E. Teixeira, to discuss this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
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